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KEYHOLE PLUGGING FITMENTS

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Our invention relates to keyhole plugging fitments, an object of the invention being to provide a device of the character herewithin described by means of which is rendered impossible the insertion of duplicate or skeleton keys into locks such as door locks, particularly hotel room door locks, dresser and bureau locks and the like.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a device of the character herewithin described which is of conspicuously simple construction, wherein the two insert-components may be mutually locked with extreme simplicity, a fitment complete with locking means being purchasable for a very low price.

With the foregoing objects in view, and such other objects and advantages as will become apparent to those skilled in the art to which this invention relates as this specification proceeds, my invention consists essentially in the arrangement and construction of parts all as hereinafter more particularly described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is an enlarged perspective representation of our fitment wherein the two main components are separated the better to illustrate the configuration thereof.

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective detail illustrating an interior keyhole opening and the leading ends of the two insertable components projecting therefrom.

Figure 3 is a transverse cross section of a recessed door lock illustrating our fitment, cross sectionally represented, in situ.

In the drawings like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures.

It is well recognized that conventional forms of shot-bolt lock-actions 1 are easily capable of being unlocked by unauthorized parties who can if necessary readily enough push out the key therefrom. If same is in the keyhole, prior to inserting a duplicate or a skeleton key for the purpose. This possibility constitutes a source of considerable anxiety to hotel guests; boarding house roomers and the like who have locked themselves in their rooms, as well as to persons who have placed valuables in dresser-drawers, bureaus and the like equipped with locks.

We have accordingly designed a fitment intended to prevent this possibility by being insertable into the keyhole of the lock-action so as to plug the same, the fitment being itself lockable within the keyhole against withdrawal. Proceeding therefore to describe our invention, its construction and operation are set forth as follows:

The fitment exclusive of the means for locking

the same in a keyhole comprises two parts, that is to say, a keyhole-anchor collectively designated 2, and a keyhole shim collectively designated 3. The anchor itself is formed of a piece of elongated flat-stock to constitute an insert, what we designate as the leading end 4 thereof being angulated to provide a claw 5, the distal end whereof is profiled as clearly depicted at 6 in Figures 1 and 2 so as to clear the perimeter of the exterior and interior keyhole openings 7 and 8 respectively. The intervening material between the claw and the opening end is preferably stamped into an offset 9 of the configuration illustrated intended to fit, as clearly depicted, in Figure 2, between the opposite side plates of lock action 1.

Upon the interior flank 10 of the anchor 2, or in other words upon that surface away from which the claw 5 is angulated, we provide the elongated chamfer 11 one end of which will be seen to open onto the leading end of the anchor, or in other words upon the line of angulation 4 of the claw 5. The continuity of the chamfer is interrupted by offset 9 and diminishes in both width and breadth towards the interior or trailing end 12 of the anchor. It will also be observed that the aforesaid trailing end is counterfolded back upon itself as at 13 to provide a shoulder 14 intended to abut the lead around the interior keyhole 7 as clearly depicted in Figure 1.

The shim 3 consists of a flat-stock tongue provided upon the exterior flank 15 with a chamfer 16 similar to the chamfer 11 and also opening onto the end 14 of the tongue to provide a profile such as will clear the perimeter of the keyhole openings as clearly indicated in Figure 2. The trailing end 18 of shim 3 is counterfolded at 19, but in opposition to the counterfold 13, to provide a shoulder 20 for a similar purpose to shoulder 14. A pair of mutually registrable apertures 21 are provided in the trailing ends 11 and 15 for the insertion of a small padlock preferably of the tumbler type, for use in the plugging of dresser drawers and the like where the exposed trailing end of our fitment may be tampered with and operated upon by unauthorized persons. Thus it will be recognized that by the use of our fitment, we are in fact able to convert an ordinary lock into a lock the strength of which will depend on the quality of the padlock. In the case of rooms within which the authorized person has locked himself, the fitment may be locked simply by the insertion of a nut and bolt to the apertures 21.

The use of our device consists in the respective consecutive introduction into a keyhole of the anchor 2 and the shim 3 which latter prevents

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lateral movement of the former and its consequent withdrawal. When the two components have been inserted, they may be locked together via the apertures 18 as above described, removal of the fitment consists first in unlocking the component thereon and first retracting the shim and then the anchor.

In designing the keyhole openings 7 and 8 as interior and exterior openings respectively, we do so for convenience inasmuch as in the case of the door of a room into which a person desires to lock himself, keyhole opening 8 would be the exterior keyhole. If however a person desired to plug his keyhole with our fitment against unauthorized entrance during his absence from the room, he would insert the fitment so that the leading end would project through the keyhole opening 18, and such would be the case with dresser and bureau drawers and the like.

Since various modifications can be made in my invention as hereinabove described, and many apparently widely different embodiments of same made within the spirit and scope of the claims without departing from such spirit and scope, it is intended that all matter contained in the accompanying specification shall be interpreted as illustrative only and not in a limiting sense.

Having regard to the foregoing disclosure, the patent of which this specification forms part, confers, subject to the conditions prescribed in The Patent Act, 1933, the exclusive right, privilege and liberty of making, constructing, using and vending to others to be used, the invention as defined in claims submitted by the patentee as follows:

1. A keyhole plugging fitment for the purpose specified, comprising in combination a keyhole anchor and a keyhole shim designed for respective consecutive introduction into said keyhole, said anchor consisting of an elongated flat-stock insert having an angularly related claw on the leading end thereof intended to engage the lead around the exterior keyhole opening, said shim consisting of a tongue for preventing lateral movement and withdrawal of said anchor after introduction, means for preventing said fitment from being pulled through from the exterior keyhole opening and means for locking said fitment against withdrawal.

2. The device according to claim 1 wherein the

distal end of said claw is profiled to clear the perimeter of the interior and exterior keyhole openings.

3. The device according to claim 1 in which the flank of said anchor away from which said claw is angulated, is chamfered substantially as herewithin specified, and wherein the distal end of said claw is profiled to clear the perimeter of the interior and exterior keyhole openings.

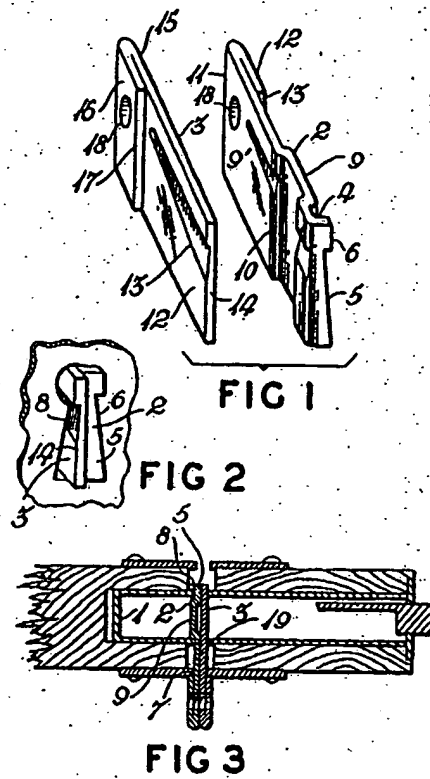
4. The device according to claim 1 in which the interior and exterior flanks of said anchor and said shim respectively are chamfered substantially as herewithin specified, and wherein the distal end of said claw is profiled to clear the perimeter of the interior and exterior keyhole openings.

5. A keyhole plugging fitment for the purpose specified, comprising in combination a keyhole anchor and keyhole shim designed for respective consecutive introduction into said keyhole, said anchor consisting of an elongated flat-stock insert having an angularly related claw on the leading end thereof intended to engage the lead around the exterior keyhole opening, the distal end of said claw being profiled to clear the perimeter of the interior and exterior keyhole opening, said shim consisting of a tongue for preventing lateral movement and withdrawal of said anchor after introduction, the interior and exterior flanks of said anchor and said shim respectively being chamfered substantially as herewithin specified, said anchor and shim each having a trailing end, said ends being oppositely counterbored to prevent interior keyhole lead abutting shoulders whereby said fitment is prevented from being pulled through from the exterior keyhole opening, said counterbored trailing ends being apertured in mutual registration for the insertion of a locking element against withdrawal towards said interior keyhole opening.

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